

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

The State of the Region 2007



MEASURING REGIONAL PROGRESS





Resolving Regional Challenges

This report card is a companion piece to The State of the Region 2007 report published by the Southern California Association of Governments. The Benchmarks Task Force, comprised of members from the public and private sectors and academia, rated the region's performance based on selected indicators. It should be noted that the grades in the report card represent the regional average while an individual county's performance may vary from the regional average.

The preparation of this report card was financed in part through grants from the United States Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. The California Department of Transportation provided additional financial assistance.

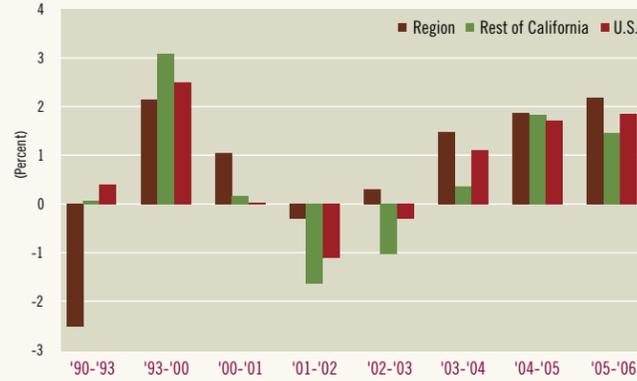
The complete report and report card are available at www.scag.ca.gov. For obtaining copies of the report, please contact Javier Minjares at 213.236.1893 or e-mail minjares@scag.ca.gov.

818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor • Los Angeles, CA 90017-3435 • 213.236.1800 • www.scag.ca.gov

The State of the Region 2007

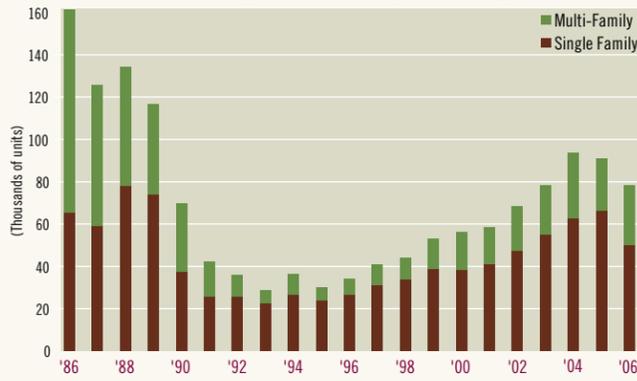
Grade: A: excellent • B: moderately well • C: average • D: potential failure • F: failing

Employment Change (Annual Average)



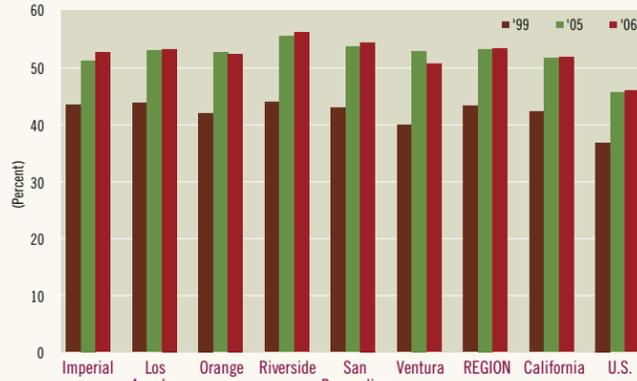
Source: California Employment Development Department and Council of Economic Advisers

Residential Building Permit Activity in the Region



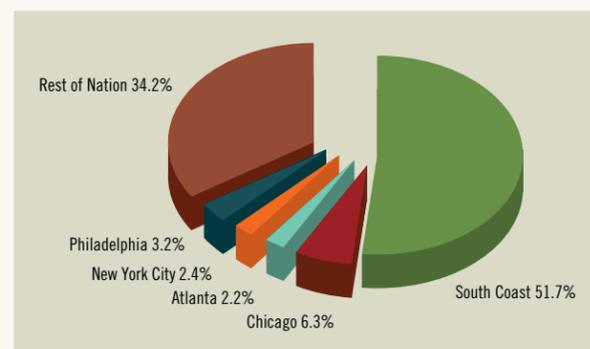
Source: Construction Industry Research Board

Rental Cost Burden (Renters Paying 30 Percent or More of Household Income on Rent)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census, 2005 and 2006 American Community Survey

PM_{2.5} Pollution South Coast Air Basin's Disproportionate Exposure

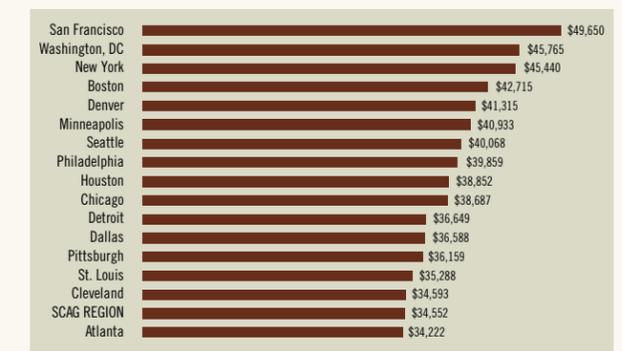


* Population-weighted exposures above the national annual average standard based on 2000-02 AIRS data
Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District

Sector

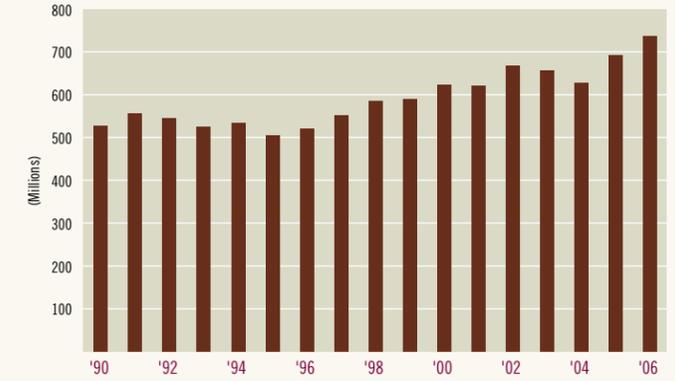
Sector	Condition	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Grade	
Employment	Despite a weakening housing sector, the region continued its job expansion in 2006 with the lowest unemployment rate since 1980. Total wage and salary jobs increased by 156,000 (2.2 percent) during 2006, the highest since 2000 in terms of number of jobs and growth rate. Accelerated growth in professional and business services, logistics and hospitality sectors and stabilization of the manufacturing sector particularly in Los Angeles County more than offset the weakness in housing-related sectors that slowed the growth in the Inland Empire and Orange County. In 2006, the region achieved a slightly higher rate of job growth (2.2 percent) than the rest of the state (1.5 percent) and the nation (1.8 percent). However, based on preliminary data, average wage per job in the region at \$46,414 in 2006 changed little from 2005 after adjusting for inflation, and continued to rank last among the nine largest metropolitan regions in the nation. Between 2000 and 2006, average wage per job was somewhat stagnant at the national, state and regional levels. In 2006, the real average wage per job in the region was only 0.7 percent above its 2000 level.	B-	B	B	B	B	B	B
Income	In 2006, partly due to the improvement of the job market, the real personal income per capita in the region rose by 1.3 percent to reach \$36,614 compared to 1.9 percent for the nation (\$36,276) and 1.5 percent for the state (\$38,956). However, real per capita income only increased by 1.5 percent between 2000 and 2006. Among the 17 largest metropolitan regions in the nation, the SCAG region ranked 16th in per capita income in 2005, dropping from the 4th highest in 1970 and 7th highest in 1990. The real median household income in the region at \$55,678 in 2006 represented a 2.6 percent increase from 2005. Nevertheless, it was still 4 percent below its 1999 level. Between 1999 and 2006, real median household income also declined at the state and national levels. In 2006, 13.6 percent of residents in the region lived in poverty, a slight decrease from 2005 (14 percent) but a notable improvement from 1999 (15.6 percent). However, in 2006, there were still over 19 percent of children (under 18) living in poverty.	C-	C-	C	C	C	C	
Housing	From 2005 to 2006, the total number of building permits issued in the region dropped by 14 percent from 91,000 to 78,200 units, a decline for the second consecutive year. The decline of building permits was concentrated in the Inland Empire particularly for single-family units. Since 2000, homeownership in the region has been rising steadily to reach almost 57 percent in 2006, an increase of 2 percentage points. Among the nine largest metropolitan regions in the nation, the SCAG region continued to have the second lowest homeownership, just above the New York region (56 percent). Since 2000, the housing affordability gap between the region and the nation has been widening. In 2006, while 60 percent of the first-time homebuyers in the nation could afford an entry-level home, less than 30 percent in the region could achieve the same. In addition, over 53 percent of owner and renter households had monthly housing costs at or greater than 30 percent of household incomes in 2006, up by 13 and 10 percentage points respectively since 2000. Among the nine largest metropolitan regions in the nation, the SCAG region continued to have the highest level of housing cost burden for both owner and renter households.	D+	D	D	D	D	D	
Mobility	Since 2004, high gasoline prices have impacted the commuters' mode choices and total vehicle miles traveled. An average gasoline price at \$2.80 in 2006 was the highest since 1970. From 2004 to 2006, there was a notable decrease in the region's share of drive-alone commuting from 76.7 percent to 74.1 percent, reversing the trend of steady increases between 2000 and 2004. During the same period, the share of alternative modes for commuting increased from 23.3 percent to 25.9 percent, reversing the previous trend of a steady decline. Between 2004 and 2006, total vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the region generally stabilized and VMT per household declined for two consecutive years. Finally, average commute time in 2006 also declined slightly from 2005. Total transit boardings in the region in FY 2006 (from July 2005 to June 2006) increased by 6 percent to a record high of 737 million since 1990. Transit trips per capita at 40 were also the highest since 1990. This was primarily due to the significant growth of the Los Angeles MTA transit system ridership facilitated by the surge in gasoline prices. Nevertheless, the region (particularly Los Angeles and Orange counties) continued to experience the highest level of congestion among the largest metropolitan areas in the nation.	D-	D-	F	F	F	D-	
Air Quality	The region continued to have the highest concentration of PM _{2.5} and ozone in the nation, and improvements have shown signs of leveling off over the past few years. In 2006, the annual average PM _{2.5} concentration in the South Coast Air Basin was 20.6 ug/m ³ , little change from 2005 and continuing to significantly exceed the federal standard of 15 ug/m ³ . The maximum 24-hour PM _{2.5} concentration in the South Coast Air Basin at 54 ug/m ³ also well exceeded the new federal standard of 35 ug/m ³ . The South Coast has almost a 52 percent share of the national total in terms of population exposed to PM _{2.5} pollution above the national standard. Recent studies have confirmed the severe health impacts from PM _{2.5} including an estimated 5,400 premature deaths per year (information available after the last State of the Region Report Card). About 80 percent of the emission reductions needed is under federal or state jurisdictions. To have any reasonable expectation of meeting the 2014 PM _{2.5} attainment deadline, the pace of improvement for PM _{2.5} must accelerate under the federal and state jurisdictions. In 2006, ozone pollution worsened slightly in the South Coast Air Basin and Ventura County but improved in the Mojave Desert and Salton Sea air basins. Finally, the region continued to meet the federal standards for carbon monoxide.	C	C-	C	C	C	D	
Education	Between 2000 and 2006, the high school dropout rates in the region rose from 12.1 percent to 15.3 percent. During this period, the dropout rate of San Bernardino County increased steadily from 12 percent to almost 21 percent, the highest in the region and significantly higher than the state average of nearly 15 percent. As to college readiness, only 36 percent of high school graduates in 2006 completed courses required for University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU) entrance. When compared to 2000, only Orange and Imperial counties made some improvement. There continues to be significant disparities in educational performance among different racial and ethnic groups with respect to, for example, high school dropout rates and college readiness. Between 2000 and 2006, there were noticeable improvements in educational attainment in the region, consistent with national trends. The percentage of adults in the region with at least a high school degree increased from 74 to 77 percent while it increased from 25 to 27 percent for adults with at least a bachelor's degree. Nevertheless, among the nine largest metropolitan regions, the SCAG region remained second to last with at least a bachelor's degree (27 percent).	D	D	D	D	D	D-	
Safety	In 2006, the violent crime rate in the region decreased slightly by 1.7 percent to its lowest level in three decades. The 2006 level was less than 40 percent of its peak level in 1992. Violent crime rate in the region was only 10 percent higher than the national average in 2006, a remarkable improvement from a 40 percent gap in 2000. Ventura and Orange counties achieved about half of the national rate, and only Los Angeles County experienced a significantly higher rate than the national average. From 2005 to 2006, the juvenile felony arrest rate in the region increased by almost 5 percent. This was the third consecutive year of increase since 2003 in contrast to the trend of continuous decline between 1990 and 2003. Nevertheless, the juvenile felony arrest rate in the region in 2006 was only about 43 percent of the 1990 level. Between 2005 and 2006, property crime rates in the region declined by 5 percent. Specifically, San Bernardino and Orange counties achieved notable reductions in property crime rates of 7 percent respectively. The number of hate crime events and victims in the region also decreased by 9 percent and 5 percent respectively, reaching their lowest levels since 2000.	B	B	B	B	B	B	

Per Capita Income by Metropolitan Region, 2005



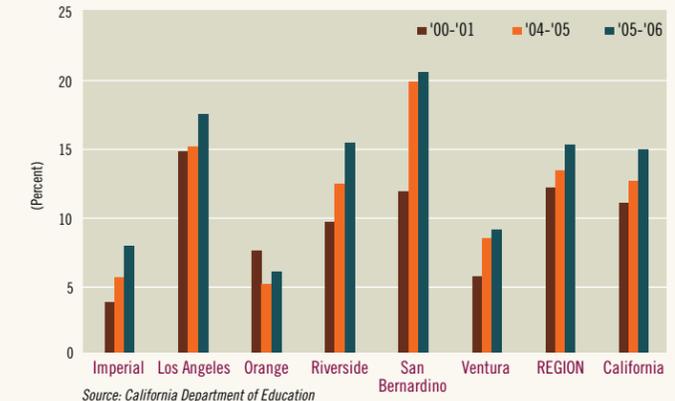
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Transit Boardings in the Region - All Major Operators



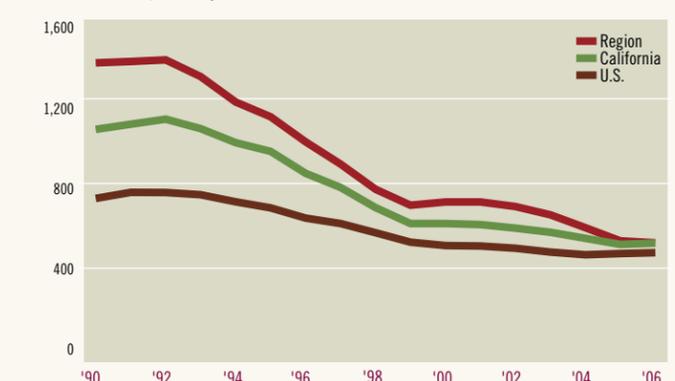
Source: National Transit Database and SCAG including preliminary estimates for 2006 data

Dropout Rates in Public High Schools



Source: California Department of Education

Violent Crimes (Per 100,000 Population)



Source: California Department of Justice, California Department of Finance, and FBI 2006 Uniform Crime Report for U.S. only